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City Tests New Technology for Water Meters

Harrisonburg, VA – The City of Harrisonburg is in the process of testing new technology for reading and monitoring water meters and monitoring water consumption.

Starting next week, Harrisonburg will begin to participate in a pilot program for an Advanced Metering Infrastructure System (AMI). There will be 300 new meters installed in a selected target area of Northfield Court, where the system can be optimally deployed. Once the new meters are in place, customers will then be provided the opportunity to begin a registration process for access to an online portal. The entire system is expected to be running by the beginning of September.

This is a system where meter readings will be sent electronically to the Public Utilities Department. Currently, a staff member is assigned to check residential meters one time every month by physically tapping a wand on each meter or driving by the meter to perform a radio read.

Not only will this technology provide a faster and more efficient way of reading water meters for City staff, it will allow for each customer to continuously monitor their own water consumption. This also provides the option for customers to be notified during certain events such as a water leak.

“By advancing the use of technology in field utilities, this will provide customers the ability to monitor their water usage from anywhere at any time,” said Director of Public Utilities, Mike Collins. “They will have access to the same information as our staff in the Billing Department.”

By participating in this pilot program, the City is able to test this new and advanced technology for free.

This system will be tested for the next 12 months. Once this pilot program is complete, staff will determine how effective it was and the feasibility and cost of further implementation of this technology.

For additional information on the Advanced Metering Infrastructure System, please visit www.muellersystems.com.

*The **Harrisonburg Department of Public Utilities** is responsible for providing water and sewer services to residences and businesses. The Department currently manages approximately 16,000 accounts. For more information about these functions of the city, visit www.harrisonburgva.gov/public-utilities.*

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